

ANCIENT  
SKILLS  
AND  
WISDOM  
REVIEW

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ANCIENT SKILLS & WISDOM REVIEW

No. 8

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cross will appear on the line below:

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-- the current state of ley hunting is presented with breathtaking fluidity and  
a necessary updating of the subject is splendidly undertaken.

Alfred Watkins, the founder of ley hunting is acknowledged throughout, though  
befittingly leys he ascertained which did not fit the strict criteria of the  
current writers are noted. Watkins wrote a book in 1927 which was a manual for  
ley hunting in its day. Donald Maxwell in the Thirties and John Michell in the  
late Sixties, particularly with "The View Over Atlantis", popularized this out-  
door hobby which fallen into period of doldrums. Michell certainly caught the  
mood of the times and his espousal of the cause had the effect of boosting my  
enthusiasm and led to publication in 1974 of "Quicksilver Heritage", the first  
modern analysis of ley theory and a "package deal" incorporating UFOs and  
psychic subjects seemingly interrelated. My manual was designed for obsolescence  
and my encouragement of subscriptions to "The Ley Hunter", which I had resurrected  
and edited, in a sense was both boosting sales of my book and equally taking the  
subject further and equally making a follow-up a necessity as fresh information  
was generated.

An indication of broadening publishing horizons was a letter from James Hughes  
(dated May 11, 1976), in which he made me an extraordinary offer I'm too modest  
to mention. However, it related to a ley books series. I was in the process of  
handing over the editorship of "The Ley Hunter" to Paul Devereux and took the  
opportunity of directing his enthusiasm towards Paul Devereux. The scope  
envisaged has been compressed, but the Devereux & Thomson book is a gem.

I have great admiration for the output of Thames & Hudson and reckon they are  
on a winner here. Devereux deserves to receive the accolade as the best ley  
hunter in Britain after this and he and Thomson should have Ley Hunting Olympics  
medals for their sterling physical work to produce the 40 leys here. I  
accompanied them on ley N4. I had cycled 50 miles the day before (looking for  
the site of a tree which had simulacra -- but that's another story) and was  
somewhat exhausted. The published comments about "adverse weather suddenly  
setting in" plus becoming wearied was no joke. Naturally I enjoyed the day, but  
it indicates that ley hunting can be tough at times -- like any pursuit of a  
physical or mental nature.

As for the quality of the leys described, they certainly seem well judged to  
give good versions and to encourage the enthusiast to seek farther afield. Of  
course, the motorist can equally enjoy driving to to many major points, but  
this is no substitute for actually seeking. Those much-maligned treasure  
hunters should try it. So should those who moan at favourite sites becoming  
tourism honey-pots. There are other ways of enjoying the countryside.

The case studies have all been walked in the field and cover most districts  
of England and Wales (but not Scotland and N. Ireland). The sites are well  
described and information given on accessibility (either as getting into mud  
or the landowner's attitude).

The history of the subject is treated with a knowledgeable, concise brevity and  
I was intrigued to learn that Watkins devised his own points system for ley

EA MYSTERI  
R "THE LEY HUNTER'S COMPANION"  
TH by PAUL DEVEREUX & IAN  
THOMSON (Thames & Hudson,  
£6-50)

Never was a book more heeded  
than this one and the concept  
and ambience are perfect. The  
flavour of ley hunting and the  
necessary prerequisites are  
given clearly and with a loving  
but guidingly strict hand.

Taking notice of sceptics and  
detractors -- and ably demol-  
ishing criticism along the way

markers, which is presented here in the order in which Watkins himself decided and appeared in the Old Straight Track Club folio No. 1. Also an innovation by the authors is not to condemn what were once called primary leys -- long distance alignments of 100 miles or more -- but reclassify these as "geomantic corridors". The authors discuss Michell's St Michael Line, but seem unaware that, in fact, Michell proposed in one somewhat obscure article three such national lines linking dragon-slaying sites seemed to form a triangle.

How to best trace leys is expedited fluently and leaves any previous description aeons behind. If, after this, archaeologists think we're amateurs and dilettantes God help them. As the authors say: "The subject is young: the mind must be open."

The paradigms are shifting and with astroarchaeology now acceptable I reckon ley hunting will follow as an orthodox subject for study (theoretically it would actually seem the more sound subject -- again another story). As a betting man I'd be interested to see odds on the Velikovsky contingent's chances for reaching acceptance. Yet ley hunters themselves will be divided here as to whether the authors have overstepped themselves by insisting on bringing UFOs so much into the picture and frame of reference. No pun intended, but where do you draw the line?

In my opinion this is an honest book in a market place of plagiarists, easy shots, coffee table fodder, etc., and its minor weak points just aren't going to get a mention here as its point and promise is so monumental.

As the authors say: "The subject is young: the mind must be open."

"THE ANCIENT SCIENCE OF GEOMANCY" by NIGEL PENNICK (Thames & Hudson, £5-95)

Maybe it is a personal perversity, but I have argued ever since becoming involved in earth mysteries studies in 1969 that it is unnecessary to postulate a hierarchical social structure for the extraordinary civil engineering feats of stone structure development in Britain and throughout the world. From the orthodox archaeologists to John Michell on the opposition all seem determined to deny that people in ancient times could not have amicably built complex structures without having to be equally socially structured. Nigel Pennick, likewise, in his introduction states his allegiance to this view.

That off my chest, I concur heartily with the remainder of his thesis. Within the earth mysteries fraternity Pennick has been instrumental in ferreting out much almost lost knowledge of not too long ago from neglected researchers -- both British and German -- and his Institute of Geomantic Research and publications have proved a worthy enterprise. This book now brings to a larger public much of his interests and forms a valid, wide-ranging and concise introduction to geomancy.

This practice requires explanation and I could hardly improve upon Pennick's own definition as given in the book: "Geomancy .... may roughly be defined as the science of putting human habitats and activities into harmony with the visible and invisible world around us, and was at one time universal, and vestiges of it remain in the landscape, architecture, ritual and folklore of almost all countries of the world."

Pennick naturally sees this as archetypal and the seeking of power points for beneficial reasons as the dynamic behind geomancy: that plus the symbolic representation of the edifices erected at the right places.

The sweep of geomancy is broad and encompasses not only topography, but geometry, astrology, astronomy and all expressions of traditional sacred knowledge.

Pennick has marshalled his material expertly and presents it in terms easy for the layman while covering so broad a spectrum and drawing from erudite and obscure literature presents much unfamiliar material for the seasoned student.

Perhaps in order to meet the publishers' specifications as regards length some sections seem somewhat truncated (particularly on terrestrial zodiacs where the author has co-written a major study) and this also may explain the lack of the familiar wry wit to be found in his I.G.R. writings.



The geomantic topics discussed include the mathematical areas such as orientation and measurement; occult practises such as divination and its reflection today in boundary ceremonies; importance of the omphalos; terrestrial zodiacs and leys; and designs of churches and cities. On the topic of the omphalos -- the spiritual centre of a country -- it shows unchauvinistic lack of bias to see Penick favours Oxford rather than his native Cambridge as a major contender. I have suggested Arbor Low and Paul Devereux Croft Hill, Leicestershire. Any other contenders?

Modern planning has been as sterile as the former civilisations using geomancy were fertile. Restoration of such a balance between man and landscape in harmony will not be easy, but the ecological movement currently gaining ground is a hopeful sign. We have cosmologies in collision and a book such as "Geomancy" should aid those willing to cast off the yoke of disbelieving amnesiastically in a once and future spiritual engineering.

"PATHWAYS TO THE GODS" by TONY MORRISON (Michael Russell, £5-95)

A travel book full of the explorer's eye for detail and sense of place, "Pathways to the Gods", is also about archaeological and astronomical mystery, with a base sufficiently broad to look into spiritual matters and mull over the actions of other cultures with a mildly sociological and anthropological overview. Morrison is also extraordinarily open-minded and tolerant, for example he willingly considers the ideas of the Nasca lines as landing strips and though using the term "little green men" it is without scorn.

The book examines two related South American enigmas: the well-publicized Nasca lines and the startling straight lines of Bolivia, whose current connection with faded ritual has excited ley hunters and given greater emphasis within that study to the original premise that the lines were once actual tracks -- but with the basic mystery remaining.

As for the first part, it is a rational discussion of the as yet unresolved problem of the Nasca alignments, not to mention representations in the desert soil of various wildlife such as spider, birds, foxes, lizards, fish and a monkey with spiral tail or various geometrical figures. It draws upon 40 years' work by Maria Reiche, fellow explorer Duncan Masson's local knowledge, Paul Kosak's original "largest astronomy book in the world", and Prof. G.S. Hawkins's enthusiasm, hard work, computer programming, guarded speculations and disappointments.

Well aware from the start the radiating lines -- rather than creature figures or large cleared areas -- were the truly crucial enigma, Morrison also decided their sheer precision indicated a special significance. But why? Unfolding as an Hermetically topographical detective novel (at one point Hawkins has "twisted the stem of his glass with a Holmesian air"), Morrison calls upon Mejia Xesspe who elaborates the religious use of the lines and seeming antiquity of the phenomenon and then he is off to Cuzco. All stirring stuff and it's a pity other earth mysteries enthusiasts don't have the same cash and contacts at hand to guide their labours.

However, the meat of the book for serious alternative archaeologists has to be the independent discovery in Bolivia during the 1920s (also the decade of Watkins's rediscovery of leys) of "paths" which converged towards mountaintop chapels with complete disregard for roughness or incline of the ground, crossing all manner of obstacles regardless. It was the account of Dr Alfred Mettraux, whose anthropological work led him to make his surprise finding, which was presented to the Society of Americanists in 1932.

Morrison then hoped the Indians themselves could be persuaded to answer important questions, particularly through the religion they were still practising. But it seems the march of "progress" has grossly undermined any such chance. Nevertheless, the splendid pictures are one of those cases of a picture being worth 1,000 words. They simply make it plain to the most steadfast sceptic that these lines exist -- and by analogy speak volumes for the case of leys in Britain and elsewhere.

In addition to greatly enhancing the case for leys, it also enhances an appreciation of the role of places where mankind has sought Gaia. The material on holy places and shrines, such as trees, caves, gullies and other landmarks adds a topical endorsement to John Michell's superb "The Earth Spirit". A hierarchy of spirits is invoked with regard to sites, but unlike our British folklore this relates to living belief.

The book is written in an easy-flowing conversational and anecdotal manner with plenty of local colour, in which concepts such as the ecliptic and azimuths are not off-putting to the layman.

Fifty years ago Donal Maxwell's "Detective in ...." books of English counties introduced many thousands to Alfred Watkins's thesis via a similarly informal yet exciting style. Let it be hoped that this book introduces travel book readers to the plethora of equally interesting earth mysteries books and magazines available. But most of all, Morrison has shown that more clearly than ever before that leys are universal and timeless.

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"SIMULACRA" by JOHN MICHELL (Thames & Hudson, £2-95)

This book has a splendidly direct and compassionate introduction:

"This book is intended to reassure those who see faces and figures in rocks, trees, clouds and damp stains on walls. Other people also see such things, and always have done. There are good reasons why this should be so, and why this natural function of human consciousness deserves to be moderately exercised."

But Michell is quick to answer those who would argue for chance effects and explicable occurrence, by admitting "this subject is tenuous and highly mystical". It is also highly fascinating and for that reason this book should prove popular, either for its subject matter or the acute observations and stylish writing within the pages, illustrated by 196 pictures of simulacra. He also shows a quirky humour when commenting: "Lovers, with their usual unoriginality, are wont to compare their mistresses' ear to a shell. A more realistic image is ear fungus (*Auricularia auricula*) which grows on the elder tree."

Subtitled "Faces and Figures in Nature", by showing excellent pictures of rock heads, spontaneous U.S. presidents, portraits of Jesus Christ, vegetable animals, the death's head symbol, terrestrial zodiacs, and much more Michell shows evolution is not how Darwin believed it as a response to external influences, but is created by archetypal lifeforms giving rise to variegated structures seen in the natural world and which change according to the genius loci and environmental character.

It is a book where the physical is seen to reflect the metaphysical and Michell uses the vision of the poet Antonin Artaud, who was regarded as crazy, as a lynch pin. That the form of nature encodify the secrets of creation will be acceptable to most reasonable persons. Many scholars of prehistory have suspected anthropomorphic characters staring at them out of menhirs. Mrs Mollie Carey, a Wiltshire lady, has made almost a life's work of this aspect and shown me around a hundred photographs from her collection of cases where she believes forms can be seen -- particularly at Avebury and Stonehenge (at Stonehenge visitors were more interested in her conclusions than those of Prof. R.J.C. Atkinson, and it was her autograph they asked for).

Another aspect is the face in tree bark syndrome. I saw a photograph taken many years ago in Trimdon, County Durham, of two children at the Fairy Tree. Two faces appeared above the children; one seemingly of the Devil and the other Jesus Christ. The child below the Devil portrait had been a "bad 'un" and the other grown up law abiding and someone to be proud of. On Bob Dylan's album "John



Wesley Harding" rumour has it faces of the Rolling Stones appear in the bark behind the singer. So get out your battered copy and check it out .....

Michell has been collecting these pictures for many years and some have already appeared in "The Fanatic" and "That Great Cook ....", and it is a pity more of his phallic collection (displayed to good use in the latter publication) had not been published here.

It is a charming, humorous and sensitive work with great value and one which should help redress some of the damage done by the materialistic and vulgar Darwin.

In conclusion, Michell is liable to have persuaded the most hardened sceptic that his series of pictorial evidence and aphorisms of traditional philosophy create a more viable standpoint for observing nature than any Mediaeval literalistic doctrine of signatures or protective mimicry.

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THE LEY HUNTER. Senior and best earth mysteries magazine and this year celebrating ten years of continuous publication. Six-issue subscription: U.K. £3; overseas £4-50 (inc. airmail and exchange commission). From The Ley Hunter, P.O. Box 152, London N10 1EP. No. 86. Philip Heselton has produced a lengthy and detailed condensed summary of the talks given at Moot '79 held in Glastonbury over a June week-end, with photographs of prominent speakers. Jimmy Goddard also writes up a piece on his thoughts regarding that event. There is an extended readers' forum providing a pot-pourri of letters, viewpoints, articles, miniature articles and items of information. Topics are extremely varied ranging from music and stone circles, strange happenings at Upper Heyford USAF air base, John Sharkey commenting on Arabian stones, Oxfordshire leys, St Adhelm, healing methods, green children, Argyll cup and ring marks, Yorkshire moat ring, a stonemason's observations, electrostatic and leys, the rights of ramblers, and Dr E.C. Krupp and John Glover going a couple of rounds.

NORTHERN EARTH MYSTERIES GROUP NEWSLETTER. Just what it says. The varied members who have come together after a suggestion by Brian Larkman have held a couple of meetings and have reasonably ambitious plans. Former T.L.H. editor Philip Heselton is editing the modest bulletin. I don't know how open to outsiders it is; but those receiving newsletters are asked to contribute £1 for 5 or 6 issues. His address is 61 Clumber Street, Hull, HU5 3RH. No. 1. Introduction to the group and report on first meeting plus articles by Guy Ragland Phillips on an approach to the E.M. field; Kathryn Jane Preston sees most English terrestrial zodiacs on a great circle; Brian Larkman discusses his art related to E.M.; and Sam Brewster seeks a shrine and seeks readers' help. A fine start, Philip. No. 2. Report on second meeting; John Billingsley on his approaches to E.M. work; report of Leeds E.M. conference; plans for next meeting and miscellany.

LANTERN. The mag of East Anglian mysteries. Published by The Borderline Science Investigation Group. Q. Annual sub. £1. From Ivan Bunn, 3 Dunwich Way, Lowestoft, NR32 4RZ. No. 27. Main two articles are on Norwich. Michael Burgess appraises the beliefs of Percy Nash on the geomancy of Norwich and Ivan A.W. Bunn continues the tale of "Old Blunderhazard". An insert is the useful and lively SPELLTHORN No. 5 by East Suffolk and Norfolk Antiquarians. Plus snippets such as an attacking owl, Suffolk witchcraft, and review of Devereux and Thomson's "The Ley Hunter's Companion".

STONEHENGE VIEWPOINT. Newspaper style magazine of archaeology, astronomy, geology and related arts and sciences. B. From U.K. agent Kay Thomson, Stonehenge Viewpoint, P.O. Box 152, London N10 1EP. No. 30. R.W. Sherlock speculates that tumuli could have been used for sunrise/sunset observation and viewing points can be deduced from the angle of repose of material used; editor Donald Cyr follows this with a commentary of his own on "Sighting Geometry"; Dr Thomas J. Maxwell excellently rebuts the claim for pre-Columbian maize in South Asia and consequent diffusionist problems; Paul Karlsson Johnson on Sir Bedwyr; and Cyr also writes on the restoration of stones 57 and 58 at Stonehenge; Druids; and U.S. megalithic sites (portions having been his contribution to the talks at the 1979 Glastonbury Moot.

PENDRAGON. Journal of The Pendragon Society. Q. Annual sub., including journal for year, £2-50. Society's aims are to stimulate interest in and investigate the archaeology and history of the Arthurian period and the Matter of Britain and other related material. Autumn, 1979. Motley Edition (their nomenclature) and includes incomprehensible to me second part of a David Stringer piece; plus Charterhouse dig; Peter Ratazzi on magic squares and ornament; miscellaneous items covering Mystery Hill, Stonehenge, magazine reviews, fiction reviewed, readers' letters and odds 'n' sods.

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"THE VALLEY OF THE WHITE LEAVED OAK" by James McKay (Torsdag Publications, 2 Clifford House, Portland Street, Hereford, HR4 9JE. 50p inc postage).

Those who have read John Michell's "City of Revelation" may recall his mysterious note on how the denizens of Whiteleaved Oak were reluctant to speak openly of their neighbourhood; a point with a special geomantic/geometrical significance. McKay, however, had written of it 100 years ago, and publisher H.C. Harper gives a brief introduction to his short description of the intriguing valley.

McKay certainly had a vivid imagination and first evokes the secret and brooding quality of his place and then populates it with Druids involving themselves in a rite. He writes of the prophetic quality of an oak with white-spotted leaves and other tree lore. It is a piece of evocative prose.

Though a very slim volume limited to 250 copies, it is well worth supporting, not least because all proceeds go towards the worthy Dragon Project, monitoring earth energies at the Rollright Stones.

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#### NEW ENGLAND ANTIQUITIES RESEARCH

ASSOCIATION JOURNAL. Q. From 4 Smith Street, Sal Trento politely but firmly defends his "The Search for Lost America" against the critique by John J. Murphy; Trento also writes knowledgably on stone chambers and root cellars; Jon Douglas Singer writes on Mid-West stone forts (cont. No. 51); Marjorie R. Kling presents new evidence for the Bat Creek Canaanite inscription; Andrew E. Rothovius reviews Margaretta S. Handke's book on petroglyphs and a summation on ancient Vermont by U.K. Celtic scholars Anne Ross and Peter Reynolds; plus Amerind and alignment findings. No. 51. Major item is illustrated account of stone sites in the Taconic landscape with interesting speculation on geomantic and ley-type features to please all topographers; a bored academic's bogus inscription spoof; and A.V. Manaila's ideas on Mystery Hill and Dacian Celts concluded. \*\*\*\*\*

"FENG SHUI" by E.J. Eitel (Pentacle Books, 6 Perry Road, Bristol, £2-50).

"FENG SHUI AND THE CHINESE HOUSE" by Helena von Poseck (Institute of Geomantic Research, Occasional Paper, No. 14, 30p + postage)

"THE GEOMANCY OF KWANHSIEN RIVER SYSTEM" by James Hutson (I.G.R., O.P. 15, 35p+)

BOB RICKARD writes (taken from review in T.L.H. No. 51): Clearly if we are to make further progress in understanding the forces our ancestors manipulated through their geomancy, much more work will have to be done on the Chinese systems, and symbolism. The dragon, sometimes paired with the tiger, or the Feng phoenix, is with those two, and the tortoise part of the primary symbolism of Taoist alchemy. There are, of course, many other composite forms such as the Ke-lin (unicorn) and the dragon-horses, dragon-fish, etc. As in the West, Chinese alchemy, astrology, geomancy, mythology and folk-tradition, medicine, etc., are welded more into a complete unified body of knowledge (shall we say technology?) the farther back into history and prehistory you go. But unlike the West, China maintained the continuity against dissolution of the "old ways" for much longer. For this reason alone, we need to know more about their ancient technology if only to construct a dialectic.

The danger of having so few sources of information is the chance that these sources might be wrong or biased, or even lack the specific information the researcher needs. We have recently seen the welcome reprint of Eitel's "Feng Shui" (here third printing), one of the few works to deal specifically with feng-shui. Eitel was from the London Missionary Society and it must be remembered that the missionary's job, as anywhere else, was to propagate a belief in



Christianity. In China, in the 1800s, the missionaries found much resistance from the most sophisticated religions and highly advanced philosophies than any they hitherto encountered. The Church made no bones about its approach and advocated in some cases quite beligerent tactics to undermine the "silly superstitions" of the Chinese people. "The choice of sites for churches and missions was objectionable (to the Chinese), often contravening the rules of feng-shui, which the missionaries naturally considered as part of "pagan superstition" and were only too glad to defy."

Ley hunters will be quick to acknowledge the efficacy (though not efficiency) of this method, since it was to a large extent applied when the Church began its assault on the faith indigenous to these isles of ours. Eitel, it appears, was under this sort of injunction -- but his desires as a scholar softened it in many ways. "Powerful as feng-shui is, it is by no means an insuperable barrier to the introduction of foreign civilisations," he wrote. The Church, and the various foreign governments, definitely saw it as a "barrier" to each's form of exploitation, though to be sure, they were perplexed by it. "The whole system of feng-shui may contain a bushel of wisdom, but it scarcely contains a handful of common sense."

Eitel based his refutation on the laughable lack of objectivity and basic principles of science and experiment. "We may smile at the unscientific, rudimentary character of Chinese physiology; we may point out that every branch of science in China is but a groping after truths with which every schoolboy in Europe is familiar...." But to be fair, though this could be said to be a representative attitude of the British in China at that time, Eitel, and a precious few others had their doubts: "Yet I say, would God, that our own men of science had preserved in their observatories, laboratories, and lecture-rooms that same childlike reverence for the living powers of nature...."

In no way do I mean to denigrate the scholarship of Eitel, but wish it to be borne in mind that with regard to his ((and another missionary, Edkins)) speculations and comments, a hatchet-job was being carried out of feng-shui. Their bias blinded them to the consequences. The Chinese do not take kindly to insults. In 1873, Eitel had acknowledged that, "Feng-shui is .... so engrafted upon Chinese social life, it has become so firmly intertwined with every possible event of domestic life...that it cannot be uprooted without a complete overthrow and consequent reorganisation of all social forms and habits." And again, in his first chapter mentions the beheading of the Governor of Macao by locals, for building roads with disregard for feng-shui.

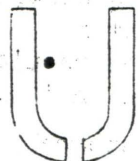
PAUL SCREETON writes: The I.G.R. has provided a further two interesting reprints in its occasional papers series. The one on Chinese house feng-shui dates from a 1904 article and indicates both the Western writer's bemusement at local custom but also a fair and detailed commentary. Details of how and when a home should be built are given and having just had a dining-room extension approved, I would say the machinations of Hartlepool Borough Council planning department make the Chinese yingyang sienseng geomancer's task seem simple by comparison. There is the same enslavement to detail which in the Western planner of today is obtuse and to the feng-shui practitioner a matter of harmonising wind and water breath aspects rather than bothersome building regulations. However, at the completion of the Chinese house there is a ritual given by the owner which equates to the topping out ceremony today held to commemorate builders completing a public house and both share a house-warming party. A most interesting A4 pamphlet.....

As is the A4 pamphlet -- slightly longer -- of Hutson's article describing a largely natural water system and the rites associated with it. After its bed had been cleaned children built stone castles to be washed away as the water was returned and health was believed to follow if stones were thrown in -- and who among us does not enjoy tossing stones in rivers? When Hutson wrote this (in 1905) the irrigation system was one of the nation's great works and one which had lasted a long time and was still in a reasonable state of repair.

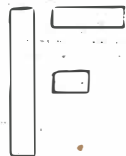
..... Main publication of the I.G.R. is "JOURNAL OF GEOMANCY". Membership is £5.75 and includes four copies of the journal and any O.P.s pubd. during the currency of the sub. Vol.4, No. 3 has material on leys, puddingstone track, swastika, dragonlore and terrestrial zodiacs (inc. Llansannan), plus much more.

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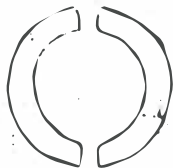




"THE PHILADELPHIA EXPERIMENT" by CHARLES BERLITZ and WILLIAM MOORE  
(Souvenir Press, £4-95)



"THE UFO GUIDEBOOK" by NORMAN J. BRIAZACK and SIMON MENNICK (New English Library, £4-95)



For more than two decades rumours have persisted that a United States Navy experiemnt in 1943 succeeded in producing a powerful force which resulted in a warship's disappearance from Philadelphia naval yard to Newport and back again in a matter of seconds, and that this "Philadelphia Experiment" got out of control with bizarre effects to its crew,

Teacher of English, writer and researcher Bill Moore began an attempt to explode the myth, and in collaboration with Charles "Bermuda Triangle" Berlitz has created a best-seller and a book the pair believe substantiates the legend (though the publishers are more cautious in their rider at the beginning).



The authors accept that the whole business could be entirely myth and admit willingly ufology has its own "folklore". Much of the components appear in this book: mysterious disappearance, ray or field effect,, people silenced, conspiracies, suppressed invention, three strangers arriving in a car and so on. Too few names are given and how did they track down "Franklin Reno/Reinhart? -- in fact, it is also reminiscent of Carlos Castaneda's work but without the allegory.

It reads like a whodunnit in a humourless (only the "astral B.O." reference amused me) way and though there are various "authentic" names and material I finished it with many reservations. You'll have to make up your own mind.

Another two collaborators, Briazack and Mennick have chosen to give ufology its own encyclopaedia, covering the field from abductees to zoology. Very much an American work, it neglects references to orthotenty (Jacques Vallee's important theory of UFOs following straight paths), leys (the alignments of ancient sites closely connected now with ufology), Warminster (The U.K mecca), its Arthur Shuttlewood, etc. Nevertheless other individuals have potted biographies, such as Kenneth Arnold, George Adamski and even Springheel Jack; possible ufo locations in space are well covered, as are mysterious sites which have been attributed ancient astronaut connections; plus astronomical data such as black holes, Jupiter's Great Red Spot, etc.; plus borderline phenomena such as Bigfoot, Mothman, Magonia and hypnotism.

However, it fills a useful gap as a reasonably full collation of the language and terminology of ufology generated by those attempting to understand the field and includes terms adopted or adapted from scientific disciplines in an attempt to clarify concepts. The introduction basically puts the history of ufology and theorising into a broad perspective. In simple entries, the authors deal with terms from many disciplines as they touch upon ufology only. Interestingly the writers have filled the vacuum of where a word gap appeared by their carefully creating their own neologisms. With more than 400 entries this will prove a useful work to any researcher and in addition to acting as a reference work will last for many years and it is good that one is able to dip into it at will.

By giving information across the whole spectrum of ufology and with no axe to grind, this deliberately unsensational compendium will win support for its balanced look at the UFO scene and its points of contact with a great number of topics, beliefs and sciences. They conclude UFOs are very real and hope no doubt their work will change sceptics' minds. So despite my own reservations it is my opinion that UFOs seem in some cases to be an "actuality"; the source, identity, purpose and material of which, however, remains a mystery.

MUFOB. Informal journal devoted to ufology and related subjects published independently by the editors. Sub available at £1-75; cheques etc., made out to John Rimmer, 84 Alric Avenue, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4JW. From next issue to be called Magonia. No. 14. Two of the editorial panel review Jacques Vallee's "Messengers of Deception"; Allen H. Greenfield reviews the U.S. UFO scene and his involvement

since the Sixties; Dirk van Der Werff (a photographer and not reporter as stated here -- we work for the same newspaper) on a South Shields case; and Peter Rogerson gives an abduction syndrome in Haitian folklore. It also has Rogerson's continuing intact recording of Type I UFO cases plus letter, reviews and notes.

BUFORA JOURNAL. Magazine of the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association, whose application information forms can be obtained from Miss Betty Wood, 6 Cairn Avenue, London W5. Membership is £5. Six issues a year with every third one produced being by the research section in A4 format. Vol. 8, No. 3. A5 professionally printed. Report -- Extra! section covers high strangeness cases in some depth and a couple of Taunton close encounters are most interesting, particularly for their MIB and sexual content. Valerie Martin collates a round-up of reports from newspapers, there are sighting summaries, readers' letters, and special Scottish selection. Vol. 8, No. 4. Special aspects are Rocky Wood's London lecture and New Zealand UFO film; interesting contact with Pluto? case; Kenyan landing; plus usual features minus reports from the Press. The research magazine is called JOURNAL OF TRANSIENT AERIAL PHENOMENA. Vol. 1, No. 1. Editorial introduction by Anthony Pace; Charles F. Lockwood on terminology clarification; Peter A. Hill on data collection and statistical analysis; Robert Digby and Steve Gamble on UFO events where indirect physical evidence seems to be present; Tony Pace on the Pembrokeshire 1977 flap with major happenings listing and illustrations; Dr Joachim Kuettner on UFO research committee make-up; and mirage phenomena explained by John Armitage.

NORTHERN UFO NEWS. Monthly newsletter of the Northern UFO Network (NUFON) published in a monthly series with NORTHERN UFOLOGY. 1980 sub. is £3-60 from NUFON, 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Salford, M30 6NJ. No. 64. Editor Jenny Randles comments on the structure of NUFON and rumours of another network being developed in comparative secrecy. There is a news review; checklist of U.K. UFO mags; brief reviews of new books; William Hayes proposes a strangeness ratings assessment system; cases of low and medium definition activity and multi-witness phenomena at Leicester. No. 65. Editorial on circular sent out by FUFOR and MAPIT jointly (who had left NUFON) plus piece on future of NUFON. Various contributors form a symposium by giving their opinions on what ufologists should do about research; plus sighting cases and reviews. No. 66. Editorial has reasons for Jenny Randles's resignation as NUFON secretary and includes endorsement of John Rimmer's UFO INSIGHT article (see below). Usual news and activity reports, including luminous entities in Staffordshire.

UFO INSIGHT. Magazine of Federation U.F.O. Research. Six issues £1-30 by crossed cheque or P.O. made out to Federation U.F.O. Research, 277B West Street, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 3HU. No. 3. Excellent analysis by John Rimmer of the perils, pompousities, banalities and bizarre world of ufo societies which appeared frighteningly accurate from my encounters with such groups and some personalities; Tim Childerhouse on satellites and space; David L. Rees on an interesting CE3K in Stockport; David Sydeserff on Scottish UFO cases; Norman Oldham on May-July astronomical events (pity it was so out of date); S.R. Cleaver on investigation equipment.

SKYWATCH. Journal of Manchester Aerial Phenomena Investigation Team. From 92 Hillcrest Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 5SE. Articles on cultists, ethics of investigation (commonsensical but I would not agree 100%) and Jenny Randles and Bernard Delair on coincidences; plus good general news section; an uneven reviews section, including claim that Raymond Drake followed von Daniken, whereas the Swiss "faction" writer pillaged the Sunderland Customs chief; plenty of overseas sightings.

UFO RESEARCH REVIEW. Official organ of the North UFO Investigation Society, 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham, NG2 3GB. Membership £2. Vol. 5, No. 1. The ubiquitous Miss Randles reviews the BUFORA congress; there is an interesting reply from an airline pilot adducing a possible UFO as Jupiter; official interest in UFO reports by pilots and air control staff; plus sighting reports.

..... Just published in paperback is "UFO MAGIC IN MOTION", by Arthur Shuttlewood, from Sphere (£1-10), which looks a most interesting addition to ufological literature from a quick skim of the contents.



# NEW AGE

"THE QUEST FOR GAIA" by KIT PEDLER  
(Souvenir Press, £5-50)

"THE SIX O'CLOCK BUS" by MOIRA TIMMS  
(Turnstone Press, £3-50)

Today's warlocks cast their evil influence from the boardrooms of multinational corporations and at their beck and call are their minions in the petrochemical and equally noxious and obnoxious industries. Any sensible spectator of the world's corporate lunacy could be excused

for thinking that beyond this irrational and malevolent behaviour lies some spurious Lords of Chaos directing plans designed to wipe out humanity and its long-suffering guardian goddess.

That goddess being Gaia, but the quest for her is no savagery, sex, sadism, swords and sorcery scenario. In rejecting industrial society and its artifacts, Kit Pedler asks us to make the effort to evolve an expanded consciousness which would include embracing Gaia in harmony. Gaia being one of the names given to the earth mother, encompassing all aspects of the earth spirit and its web of life forming one entity.

Readers of this magazine will recognise no doubt Gaia as the subject of all earth mysteries (E.M.) studies, with leys as her nervous system and ley points and sacred centres as pores or chakras, either on a physical or etheric level. Generally the E.M. fraternity hold strong views on pollution and ecological issues, but like the rest of the herd do little positive about it. Kit Pedler, however, decided that he must erase his objectionable lifestyle, and this book is based upon the changes he made as well as the reasons.

In an angry, no holds barred introduction he castigates capitalism and communism, the ideologists of left and right, and proposes Gaianism as a logical basis for personal equality and Gaian technology as appropriate for the future. To press his points home he raises the chillingly emotive word "cancer" to describe our behaviour towards the body we live upon.

Pedler approves wholeheartedly of "natural philosophers" and determines that those of a like mind to his are "at present a scattered and motley band" and pleads for the formation of a more generally agreed discipline. I believe this will emerge once the likes of E.M. seekers, AT freaks, and such, stop finding fault with one another and come together.

The book is in three sections and the first analyses Gaia as an entity and discusses ecology as the one scientific means of coming to terms with Gaia. I believe that equally the problem can be approached from the interdisciplinary information network created by those researching into various studies covered by E.M., which would prove possibly even more fruitful as the majority of such persons have not been attracted to that discipline, ecology, already something of a darling of the liberal establishment and radical trendies. Gaia doesn't need their new bureaucracies or pretty metallic "Save The Whale" badges. We must learn that the catastrophes of nature are not irrational but afford Gaia its stability.

The second part covers much territory which I have digested quite fully from thorough reading of such magazines as "Undercurrents", but which I endorse heartily and hope the buyers of this book will consider seriously. It considers personal changes the individual can make to break the umbilical cord from industrial society. It is stimulating material and challenging for those sensible and brave enough to follow. The entropy damage and costs of the consumer society are shown to be staggering. Pedler lashes angrily at the manufacturers and purchasers of supermarket foods and drinks, washing machines, deep freezers, ways of cooking, keeping warm, shelter choice, suffering caused to animals, and the behaviour of the whole area of health.

The third part is a blistering dissection of the cybernarchy, who seem to be our real rulers, with the political parties merely puppets, and gives ideas for an ideal new science and sums up his thoughts.

Pedler is a doctor of medicine and well qualified to comment on his topic. With Gerry Davis he created and wrote the "Doomwatch" TV series and has written three S.F. novels on such themes.

RAPE OF GAIA CAN DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

And so to Moira Timms, a Kentishwoman or Woman of Kent, who currently lectures on health and healing plus coming change and who now lives in -- you've guessed -- California. Her thesis sets out to scare the living daylights out of the vibrating old ladies of spa towns and promises redemption in a once and future golden age.

Her book is subtitled "A Guide to Armageddon and the New Age" and draws upon millennial doubts and aspirations for impetus, leavening the synthesis with straightforward geological concepts, Bermuda Triangle, Spiritual Sun, Velikovsky, Great Pyramid, Hopi Indians, organic gardening, etc., to Jupiter Effect with its supposed semblance to a cosmic fruit machine jackpot line whose prize will be chaos, et al. I presume all readers of this magazine will share varying sectors of "New Age" and "alternative" thought and find much here to agree with. I certainly endorse the fears of environmentalists for the well-being of our planet and would be reluctant to pour scorn on the astrological predictions or any other form of prophecy. Part 4, Emergency Stops, covers much the same ground as Pedler with minimal difference or disagreement, but Pedler takes a more practical view of the world while Moira Timms calls for those who wish to understand changes to achieve New Age consciousness and the book closes with Light and Love.

However, the allegory of the dream bus of the title seems clumsy and forced despite an explanatory dream. The book's publisher once offended me by suggesting the contents of my "Quicksilver Heritage" seemed like a series of study notes strung together. Perhaps he might well contemplate this work in such a light..

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